United Nations CEDAW/C/SR.1381

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.: General
25 February 2016

English only

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Sixty-third session

Summary record of the 1381st meeting
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Friday, 19 February 2016, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Hayashi

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Combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Mongolia

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (*continued*)

Combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Mongolia (CEDAW/C/MNG/8-9; CEDAW/C/MNG/Q/8-9 and Add.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Mongolia took places at the Committee table.*

2. **Ms. Narangerel** (Mongolia), introducing the State party's combined eighth and ninth periodic report (CEDAW/C/MNG/8-9), said that the Government of Mongolia was committed to incorporating the provisions of the Convention and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action into national laws, policies and programmes. That commitment was reflected in the Law on the Promotion of Gender Equality, adopted in 2011, and the Midterm Strategy and Action Plan on the Implementation of the Law, which had been adopted in 2011 and was designed to create the legal and organizational framework for the promotion of gender equality in the political, economic, social, cultural and family spheres. The Government worked with women's organizations in pursuing its gender equality goals and, between 2013 and 2015, had organized a series of international and national forums with the support of such organizations. The forums had focused on family values, men's participation in social development, women's development policy, women's participation in development and Asian youth, and had yielded a range of recommendations that had been disseminated at all levels of central and local government, where they would be used to feed further legislative and policy development.

3. The Government had also made great progress in fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals. Several targets had been successfully achieved, including the target for the reduction of maternal mortality, which, by the end of 2014, had dropped to 26 deaths per 100,000 live births. The new Sustainable Development Goals had been fully incorporated into the State's long-term development policy for the period 2016-2030, approved in December 2015. The 45 goals set under the policy included the equal participation of women and men in social development and the creation of an environment that favoured equal access to social wealth. Responsibility for coordinating the national gender policy lay with the National Committee on Gender Equality, which had been established in 2005 but was currently being restructured following changes in the Government's structural organization at the end of 2015. The National Committee now fell under the purview of the Ministry for Population Development and Social Protection.

4. Since the submission of the periodic report, the Government had introduced a number of important legislative reforms, including amendments to the Criminal Code. In addition to the legislative amendments, a raft of new laws had been adopted, including laws on the rights of persons with disabilities, joint pensions, childcare services, infant and maternal health and victim and witness protection. A new anti-trafficking law that was compliant with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (the Palermo Protocol) had also been promulgated. Many of the legislative reforms benefited women in particular.

5. The revised Criminal Code made domestic violence an offence in Mongolia for the first time, set more stringent penalties for the perpetrators and excluded sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, discrimination, stalking and other gender-related offences from the list of crimes for which exemption from criminal liability could be

obtained by seeking reconciliation with the victim. The Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, approved in February 2016, recognized for the first time the need to accord special attention to the rights of women with disabilities, including their sexual and reproductive rights, their right to legal, psychological and other services, and their right to protection against domestic and sexual violence and harassment. The new Law on Childcare Services, meanwhile, should ensure equal opportunities for the one in three Mongolian children not currently benefiting from preschool State education and, by extension, support the employment of the many parents and caregivers who were currently unable to enter the labour market.

6. Although over 60 per cent of Mongolian women had completed higher education, they remained underrepresented in politics and other decision-making positions. To address that situation, the Elections Law provided that the representation of either sex on the electoral lists of political parties should be no less than 30 per cent. Since the law's adoption in December 2011, political parties had been working to incorporate similar provisions into their internal regulations. At present, there were 11 female members of parliament and those women had united to promote women's rights, gender equality and women's participation and representation in all sectors.

7. Various measures had been adopted to implement the Committee's previous recommendations regarding the need to eliminate gender stereotypes and promote gender mainstreaming in school curricula. For example, a gender perspective had been incorporated into secondary school curricula, programmes and textbooks and, in 2014, serving teachers and teaching graduates had taken part in a six-step training programme exploring ways to reflect gender issues in lesson content. Other advances in the field of education had included an increase, to 360 nationwide, in the number of lifelong learning centres available for adolescent mothers who would otherwise be excluded from education; improvements to the life skills training programme offered to social workers and teachers, notably to cover the prevention of gender-based violence; and the establishment of life skills centres in 5 districts of Ulaanbaatar and 11 provinces that gave young people from rural areas access to the skills development services that would help them grow into responsible and confident adults.

8. The Government had also been working to amend the Labour Law so that it reflected gender issues more comprehensively. A draft revision would be submitted to the parliament in the near future. The draft prohibited workplace discrimination and harassment, established penalties for employers who failed to provide fair and equal working conditions and extended the principle of non-discrimination and equality to wage levels. The latter provisions, once enacted, should help narrow the gender pay gap, which was currently 16 per cent. In line with current legislation on personal privacy, the draft also expressly prohibited employers from requesting HIV/AIDS or pregnancy tests and from terminating contracts or refusing to hire prospective employees based on health considerations.

9. In the field of health care, particular attention had been given to sexual and reproductive health and infant and maternal health. Some 350 maternity facilities had been established to provide safe birthing conditions for women living in more sparsely populated areas and it had become standard practice to refer at-risk pregnant women or women who developed complications to secondary and tertiary health-care institutions. The considerable rise in the birth rate over the past decade had also prompted the construction of new maternity wards that provided nearly 1,000 additional hospital beds nationwide.

10. Mongolia was one of the countries least affected by HIV/AIDS, with only 181 registered cases as of 2014, of which 17.8 per cent were women. Ten births to HIV-positive women had been recorded and the infants had in all cases been HIV-free. Although the numbers were small, HIV-positive women who fell pregnant faced a

number of medical and social risks and for that reason were usually transferred to the National Centre for Infectious Diseases to give birth. However, local hospitals provided assistance and advocacy prior to birth and doctors and midwives were trained in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

11. The Mongolian health-care authorities had passed revised abortion-related standards and procedures in 2014. Funding for the distribution of birth control pills and contraceptives from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) had been reflected in the State budget since 2009 and had been steadily increasing. Contraception was available to women and girls for free and young adults were offered free consultations on sexual, reproductive and psychological health issues. Family planning needs were therefore far better met than in the past.

12. In the years ahead, the development and protection of women would be priorities on the Government agenda. The Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection had established a Child, Family and Women's Development Division that was actively working to enhance the legal and social protection available to women. The period of social and economic transition that Mongolia had experienced over the past two decades had engendered immense changes in ideologies, attitudes and values that had, in turn, necessitated changes to the Family Law adopted in 1999. A new draft of that Law accorded particular attention to social protection, compliance with international practices and the prevention of discrimination.

13. Despite its efforts, the Government was fully aware of the many challenges the country faced. Domestic violence was on the rise, calling for the urgent adoption of a revised version of the Law on Combating Domestic Violence; more precise gender statistics were required to develop and implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes; and there was a pressing need for closer cooperation with the National Human Rights Commission and civil society organizations in implementing the Convention and other international agreements to which Mongolia was a party.

14. In those and other areas, methodological support and assistance from the Committee would be greatly appreciated. International donor funding was also needed to supplement the meagre budget available for implementation of the Law on the Promotion of Gender Equality and the Midterm Strategy and Action Plan. However, the Government firmly believed that cross-sectoral cooperation and participation and the concerted, coordinated efforts of State and civil society organizations in building the financial, structural and organizational mechanisms needed to support women's empowerment and advancement and foster greater understanding and awareness of gender equality would yield the deep-seated changes and improvements it sought.

Articles 1 to 6

15. **Ms. Ameline** said that the State party was to be commended on its recent legislative advances and its decision to abolish the death penalty. Referring to the recommendations made to Mongolia during its 2015 universal periodic review, she asked what progress had been made in ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951. The State party should refer to the Committee's general recommendation No. 32 on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women for guidance in consolidating its approach to asylum seekers. She asked how the State party planned to ensure adequate visibility of the Convention and the Committee's concluding observations and whether the National Committee on Gender Equality and civil society would play a role in that endeavour. The Committee would have liked to have seen sexual orientation included among the prohibited grounds for discrimination in the definition of discrimination adopted by the State party. She asked how the State

party planned to ensure that minority women could exercise all their rights under the Convention; what steps it envisaged taking to enhance the effectiveness of the judiciary to guarantee all women access to justice; how it handled the complaints of violations of women's rights referred to it by the National Human Rights Commission; how it intended to expedite the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals that it had identified as a priority; and whether it planned to offer judges and magistrates training on the Convention.

16. **Ms. Narangerel** (Mongolia) said that Mongolia had made great strides in improving women's rights following the democratic revolution of 1990. A number of measures had been taken to improve the quality of life of the country's ethnic minorities. For example, ethnic minority groups benefited from increased social insurance coverage and positive discrimination measures in the labour market. Ethnic minorities were not discriminated against in Mongolian law. The Constitution of Mongolia prohibited gender-based discrimination. New mothers could spend up to two years at home with their child and return to their post. The Government was currently examining the possibility of ratifying the Migrant Workers Convention and the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951.

17. **Ms. Schulz** said that, while the State party was to be commended on the progress that it had made, there was still a need to improve the effectiveness and coherence of its human rights framework. She asked when the State party planned to amend article 14, paragraph 2, of the Constitution in order to expand the prohibited grounds of discrimination to cover sexual orientation, gender identity and disability; when the State party intended to introduce measures to enforce and monitor the application of the law on the rights of persons with disabilities; and whether it planned to allocate budgetary resources for its implementation. She asked whether the State party planned to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law that would protect all women living in Mongolia. It would also be useful to have an account of the prevalence of multiple discrimination against women in Mongolian society.

18. **Ms. Patten** said that, while the adoption of the law on the rights of persons with disabilities was a positive development, the continued existence of laws and decrees authorizing forced abortion and the forced sterilization of women with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities was a major cause for concern. She asked whether the State party intended to review all such laws and decrees and to repeal discriminatory provisions. She would also be interested in learning more about the circumstances in which mothers with disabilities could be stripped of their parental rights.

19. **Ms. Ameline** asked whether the opinions issued by the National Human Rights Commission were binding and, if so, whether the national parliament was obliged to amend laws that the Commission identified as being discriminatory towards women. She also wished to know whether the State party had requested technical assistance from the competent international organizations in improving the functioning and services offered by the judiciary.

20. **Ms. Narangerel** (Mongolia) said that the Government was aware of the need to strengthen the country's legal framework and, to that end, had reviewed existing laws and passed new laws protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities.

21. **Ms. Gantuya** (Mongolia) said that, in December 2015, Mongolia had amended its Criminal Code to punish violations of political, economic and social rights and acts of discrimination on grounds such as race, gender, ethnicity, ideology and sexual orientation. The perpetrators of such offences could be deprived of their liberty.

22. The reform of the judiciary was still ongoing. In April 2013, the Government had begun implementing laws intended to improve the functioning of the courts. In

Mongolia, most trials were public and a large number of courts were equipped with video recording equipment. It was possible to request access to the video archives of the courts. The General Council of the judiciary organized online training for judges and magistrates. The Government was still examining the possibility of ratifying the Migrant Workers Convention and the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951.

23. **Ms. Narangerel** (Mongolia) said that there was a national centre for the care of persons with disabilities and a special centre for children with disabilities. The Government planned to fund additional centres for children with disabilities in various provinces of the country.

24. **Ms. Oyunkhand** (Mongolia) said that the law on the rights of persons with disabilities contained an elaborate definition of disability and clearly set out their rights. The newly adopted law prohibited discrimination on the basis of disability and afforded persons with disabilities enhanced protection. The law also contained a special chapter on the rights of women with disabilities.

25. **Ms. Rentsenkhand** (Mongolia) said that the Government was working with the National Human Rights Commission to review the existing body of Mongolian legislation and to bring it into line with the Convention. While the Law on the Promotion of Gender Equality prohibited gender-based discrimination, it did not expressly mention the concept of multiple discrimination. The National Human Rights Commission was working to improve the application of Law.

26. **Ms. Gabr** said that, while she welcomed the State party's efforts to align its domestic legislation with the Convention, there was also a pressing need to strengthen the national machinery for the advancement of women, namely the National Committee on Gender Equality. Noting that the Committee no longer came under the authority of the Office of the Prime Minister, she asked whether the decision to place it under the authority of a government ministry had affected its status. It would also be useful to know more about the Committee's mandate, the budgetary resources allocated to it, its composition, its relationship with civil society and whether the Government planned to decentralize its gender equality policy. Given that the National Human Rights Commission was competent to receive and resolve complaints of gender-based discrimination but that it reportedly lacked efficiency, she would welcome additional information on its composition, including the criteria used to select its members; how the impartiality of those members was guaranteed; the budgetary resources allocated to it; and whether it was in line with the Paris Principles. It would also be desirable for the National Committee on Gender Equality to play a role in dealing with complaints of gender-based discrimination.

27. **The Chair** said that the State party was to be commended on the progress that it had made since the last interactive dialogue with the Committee. However, in its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/MNG/CO/7), the Committee had urged the State party to introduce temporary special measures in its legislation with a view to increasing the representation of women at all levels and spheres of politics and to provide statistical data on women's representation in various areas of public life, including in law enforcement, the judiciary and the diplomatic service. It was therefore regrettable that the report and written replies shed little light on the steps taken by the State party to give effect to the Committee's recommendations or on the current level of women's representation in public and political life. While the State party had adopted several laws enshrining general non-discriminatory principles, such as the Law on the Promotion of Gender Equality, it would be useful to know whether those laws actually provided for the introduction of temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women, such as quotas for female electoral candidates. She asked whether the Midterm Strategy and Action Plan on the

Implementation of the Law for the period 2013-2016 included the provision of training courses on gender equality and temporary special measures for members of the judiciary, government officials and law enforcement officers.

28. While welcoming the news that the 20 per cent quota for women candidates in party lists for parliamentary elections had been increased to 30 per cent, she said that women's representation in the parliament was just 13.5 per cent, which was much lower than the global average. Furthermore, reports suggested that women candidates were placed at the very bottom of the lists. Steps needed to be taken to ensure that women and men were equally represented on such lists.

29. Regarding education, while progress had certainly been made, it was clear that gender segregation persisted. For example, very few women students studied non-traditional subjects, such as mining, science and technology. In that connection, she wished to know whether there were any temporary special measures in place or envisaged to help accelerate gender equality and facilitate women's empowerment.

30. **Ms. Narangerel** (Mongolia) said that, in 2012, the new Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection had been established as a crucial step towards the country's future development. For example, the Ministry had organized several forums as a means of enabling different population groups to air their views and concerns on certain policy areas, which, in turn, were reflected in the relevant legislation. The National Committee on Gender Equality had also been restructured and, although it remained a separate entity, the Minister of Population, Development and Social Protection was now its Vice-Chair.

31. **Ms. Rentsenkhand** (Mongolia) said that following the restructuring of the Government, the secretariat of the National Committee on Gender Equality, which was responsible for its day-to-day functioning, now came under the Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection. It comprised 26 members, of whom 15 were ministers of State while the remainder were representatives of non-State actors. The Committee had seen an increase in the number of projects undertaken by it since the restructuring. It was, for example, currently conducting an analysis of the legislation; carrying out a project to assess whether new draft laws incorporated a gender perspective; and working with the Ministry of Finance to perform a gender analysis of the budget.

32. **Ms. Gantuya** (Mongolia) said that the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia had been established in line with the Paris Principles and had three commissioners. It was mandated to receive, review and resolve complaints and assess whether the decisions of the courts were in accordance with the legislation. It also produced an annual report on the human rights situation in Mongolia for parliamentary review. A bill that would increase the budget of the Commission so that it could adequately fulfil its functions was currently under review.

33. **Ms. Gabr** said that she would like further information on the mandate of the National Committee on Gender Equality and its relationship with the Prime Minister, the parliament and civil society organizations.

34. **Ms. Rentsenkhand** (Mongolia) said that the National Committee on Gender Equality was headed by the Prime Minister but its composition had changed owing to the Government restructuring.

35. **Ms. Arocha Domínguez** said that she wished to know what powers were vested in the Media Council of the National Committee on Gender Equality to challenge gender stereotypes in the media. In particular, she wondered whether there were any regulations obliging the media to comply with its rulings and whether there were penalties for failing to do so. Regarding education, she wished to know whether there

was a harmonized methodology for measures aimed at eliminating stereotypes and promoting gender equality; whether teachers had been adequately trained to teach those subject matters; and whether any efforts were under way to tackle multiple forms of discrimination. It would also be interesting to know how the Government worked to ensure that all categories of women were included in efforts to prevent stigmatization and discrimination and to promote a positive image of women in society.

36. While commending the amendment to the Criminal Code, under which discrimination, irrespective of the grounds, was now a hate crime, she said that she would appreciate more information about the mechanisms in place and the human, financial and other resources allocated for the implementation of the provision.

37. **Ms. Gabr** said that, in the light of the new measures introduced by the Government to deal with the increase in violence against women, she would welcome more information about the shelters set up to support women victims and details of how the State party protected elderly women against violence. Moreover, since gender stereotypes had a negative impact on women and engendered violence against them, it would be helpful to hear more about the work carried out in conjunction with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) regarding school textbooks. Information on the status of amendments to the domestic violence legislation should also be provided.

38. Regarding article 6 of the Convention on the suppression of trafficking and prostitution, she said that, although some progress had been made, she wished to know why financial support for shelters for victims had been reduced; what provision had been made to protect victims and witnesses; and how the State party worked with destination countries in which Mongolians were often exploited by traffickers. As to the Law to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking, she asked how the new regulations recently introduced worked in practice; how the Government collaborated with NGOs and the media to combat trafficking; and why the number of trafficking convictions was so low. Were awareness-raising activities and training, particularly for law enforcement officials and judges, being conducted? Moreover, had any data analysis been carried out to identify and tackle the root causes of trafficking in Mongolia?

39. Lastly, she asked whether the State party had an action plan to combat trafficking and, if so, whether it could be provided to the Committee, and what action the Government was taking to prevent the increase in prostitution caused by the growth in tourism.

40. **Ms. Rentsenkhand** (Mongolia) said that the Midterm Strategy and Action Plan on the Implementation of the Law on the Promotion of Gender Equality included measures to address gender stereotypes and gender-based violence and raise public awareness of those issues. The Government worked with the media to help combat stereotypes and acknowledged journalists for their gender-sensitive reporting. One such journalist had, for example, been recognized for having written extensively about combating gender-based stereotypes.

41. Every year, to coincide with International Women's Day, awareness-raising campaigns were conducted in the public sector to help create a positive image of women. The campaigns also sought to heighten awareness not only about domestic violence but also the important role that men played in the family.

42. Regarding education, she said that gender mainstreaming had been incorporated into the secondary school curriculum. Teachers and graduate students received training on gender equality and how to incorporate it into their teaching. Efforts were also under way to establish how best to reflect gender equality in school textbooks. For

school dropouts or other children who could no longer pursue a mainstream education, a comprehensive teaching programme on gender-based violence and gender equality had also been created.

43. The Government was working with international organizations to raise public awareness about gender equality. For example, each year two members of parliament — one woman and one man — were appointed as gender equality messengers and worked to disseminate information about gender equality.

44. **Ms. Gantuya** (Mongolia) said that the Law on Combating Domestic Violence provided protection for witnesses and victims. Proposed amendments to that law included provisions aimed at improving cross-sectoral cooperation, supporting victims and broadening the definition of the family. The parliament was due to discuss those amendments shortly. In the light of the changes to the Criminal Code, which made domestic violence an offence, there was now a new legal framework for ending that phenomenon. Clear procedures to enable greater intersectoral cooperation had been set out and victims were offered a range of support services, including psychological counselling and legal services. The police had also developed new guidelines on working with, supporting and protecting victims of violence.

45. A focal point for victims of domestic violence had been designated within the police force and a 24-hour shelter had been opened to offer health care and legal services. Since its inception, the shelter had received more than 400 victims, of whom 70 per cent had been under 18 years of age. In October 2014, a national domestic violence hotline had been set up. The number of calls made to the hotline had been steadily increasing, thanks in part to a growing awareness of the service. Training courses were run for perpetrators of domestic violence — for whom they were mandatory — and for social workers and police officers in all nine districts of Ulaanbaatar.

46. **Ms. Narangerel** (Mongolia) said that Mongolia had ratified the Palermo Protocol in 2008 and that, in 2012, the parliament had passed the Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons, pursuant to which the Government had developed the National Programme on Combating Human Trafficking. According to the Mongolian Gender Equality Centre, between 2006 and 2013, there had been 95 recorded cases of human trafficking involving 226 victims.

47. **Ms. Gantuya** (Mongolia) said that the National Programme on Combating Human Trafficking was based on prevention, the protection of victims, the prosecution of offenders and integrated policies. The Programme, which was fully funded, would cover the period from 2015 to 2020.

48. **Ms. Hofmeister** asked whether and how the issue of multiple discrimination was dealt with in the State party's legislation, to what extent women with disabilities who were victims of violence had access to legal and psychological assistance, and what was done to ensure that victims were aware of the services available to them.

49. **Ms. Gabr** said that she would appreciate information on measures to protect elderly women from all forms of violence. She also invited the delegation to provide an update on the status of the National Programme on Combating Human Trafficking, which was reportedly not being implemented.

50. **Ms. Rentsenkhand** (Mongolia) said that the parliament had approved a law on persons with disabilities that prohibited all forms of discrimination on the grounds of disability. An action plan would be formulated to implement the law with input from a 2015 study on the rights of women with disabilities. Under the amended Criminal Code, the vulnerability of a victim owing to disability was considered an aggravating factor.

51. **Ms. Oyunkhand** (Mongolia) said that the Government had drawn up a national programme on health care for the elderly, an entire chapter of which had been devoted to elderly women. A national gerontology centre had been established and there were specialist health professionals working in every province of the country.

52. **Ms. Gantuya** (Mongolia) said that the Government would hold discussions on the National Programme on Combating Human Trafficking in March 2016.

Articles 7 to 9

53. **Ms. Zou** Xiaoqiao said that it would be interesting to know what specific measures, including temporary special measures, benchmarks and incentives, had been taken to promote women's full and equal participation in political and public life. The delegation should provide details of efforts to ensure that women were appointed to leading positions on equal terms with men, indicate whether campaigns had been conducted in the public and private sectors to raise awareness of the importance of women's participation in decision-making and describe any mechanisms that had been created to monitor the impact of such campaigns.

54. She wished to know whether measures were envisaged with regard to candidate registration fees for local and national elections, which constituted a considerable financial barrier to women's participation, and what would be done to enable more women to represent the Government internationally. In particular, it would be useful to know how many women were employed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and whether temporary special measures would be taken to boost the number of women in decision-making positions in the diplomatic service.

55. The delegation should state whether the recently approved law on persons with disabilities contained provisions to encourage the political participation of women with disabilities and outline the steps being taken to guarantee that those women exercised their right to vote, to be elected and to participate on an equal basis with other women in the development of legislation, policies and programmes, not only concerning their rights but also women's issues in general.

56. **Ms. Gabr**, noting that the State party had not yet responded to the request for information on whether Mongolian women could transmit their nationality to their children and foreign husbands, asked whether interracial marriages were systematically recorded and why no special mechanism had been set up to monitor marriage agencies.

57. **Ms. Narangerel** (Mongolia) said that women accounted for roughly half of all employees in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including half of the 10 staff members in managerial positions.

58. **Ms. Rentsenkhand** (Mongolia) said that a parliamentary resolution was being drafted to step up the implementation of the 2011 Law on the Promotion of Gender Equality, which prohibited gender discrimination in political and public life. There was no legal impediment to women standing for election and, in 2013, Natsagiin Udval had become the first woman to run for the presidency.

59. **Ms. Bolormaa** (Mongolia) said that the law on persons with disabilities enshrined the rights of persons with disabilities to run for political office, to vote independently and secretly, and to have equal access to political campaign material. Political parties had assumed a duty to support the candidacy of persons with disabilities and to foster their participation in party activities.

60. **The Chair** asked whether State party legislation had ever discriminated against persons with disabilities with regard to the right to vote and, if so, what changes had been brought about by the law on persons with disabilities.

61. **Ms. Altanjargal** (Mongolia) said that previous laws had not restricted the rights of persons with disabilities to vote or to be elected.

62. **Ms. Narangerel** (Mongolia) said that one of the aims of the law on persons with disabilities was to create a favourable environment for candidates and voters with disabilities, including persons with visual impairments and wheelchair users.

63. **Ms. Gantuya** (Mongolia) said that children born outside Mongolia to a Mongolian citizen and a foreign spouse could choose their nationality when they reached the age of majority. Before that time, their nationality was determined on the basis of a joint decision of the parents.

64. **Ms. Zou** Xiaoqiao said that the delegation had still not indicated whether campaigns had been conducted in the public and private sectors to raise awareness of the importance of women's participation in decision-making. Noting that, in its concluding observations on the initial report of Mongolia (CRPD/C/MNG/CO/1) from May 2015, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities had recommended that the State party should repeal legal provisions that denied or restricted the right to vote based on disability, she asked the delegation to confirm whether or not State party legislation had ever discriminated against persons with disabilities.

65. **Ms. Schulz** said that the Government should perhaps reconsider whether it was appropriate to leave the nationality of children born outside Mongolia to a Mongolian citizen and a foreign spouse up to the parents. She also asked why, in a globalized world, the State party continued to have fairly restrictive legislation on dual citizenship.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.